

Washington Avenue Corridor
Super Neighborhood Issues
November 9, 2009

Issue	Department	Name	Response	Status
Decal Parking Allow proactive-not reactive-area wide application of residential parking permit program	General Services Dept. Parking Management	Liliana Rambo	One of the main criteria for this designation is its need and the lack of available parking spaces in the neighborhood, it would not be fair to impose a decal parking permit on a neighborhood where residents do not desire it or approve it.	Closed
Street Parking 1. Clarify street parking is legal on Washington Avenue by adding signs 2. Disallow parking during peak travel hours 3. Increase the number of available parking spaces on Washington Ave, angle parking and or building structured parking	Public Works and Eng.	Andy Icken	<p>The average daily traffic volumes on Washington Avenue indicate the need for 4 lanes. However, Traffic volumes along Washington Avenue tend to be heaviest during the morning and evening peaks and are lighter through much of the day. As a result, the City is considering the implementation of peak hour parking restrictions that would allow parking along Washington Avenue at other times where possible.</p> <p>Additionally, the bicycle lanes between Houston Avenue and Heights Blvd were installed using federal funding and are included in the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality. However, the City believes that the issues surrounding the co-location of the bicycle lanes and parking can be worked out. The Traffic and Transportation Division is working with the City's bicycle coordinator to resolve these issues.</p>	<p>The City is <u>proposing</u> the implementation of peak hour <u>directional</u> parking restrictions that would allow parking along Washington Avenue at other times where possible.</p> <p>The Traffic and Transportation Division and Parking Management developed a parking plan for Washington Ave that provides for metered curb parking, taxi stands and parking restrictions. We have determined that approximately 400 spaces can be provided along the Washington Ave. A briefing with Council Member Gonzales was held last week. The Council Office will set up a meeting on the plan. Meter installation, signage and striping will start in January.</p>
Street Improvements Widen sidewalks and enhance street lighting along Washington Avenue to encourage pedestrian traffic	Parking Management	Liliana Rambo	<p>We will explore a "Parking Benefit District" that allows parking meter revenues to be funneled into a financing mechanism to pay for enhancements after cost are covered (Purchase of meters and enforcement staff).</p> <p>Public Works is responsible for enhancement implementation.</p>	Preliminary research completed on Parking Benefit Districts. This would be a first for Houston and will take time to set up.
Building Code Require sound proofing to club buildings and sound barrier walls around outdoor patios and decks.	Public Works and Eng.	Andy Icken	Proposal will not be effective because of opening of doors and windows will allow the sound to escape and any type of regulation would be required of all "clubs" which isn't feasible. The need is to concentrate on regulating the sound level which is the nuisance rather than trying to specify regulations for all the possible building types and	Closed

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			locations that sound can generate from.	
Off-street parking ordinance Amend ordinance to increase the number of on-site parking space per square feet of occupancy and to disallow "grandfathering" after a building has changed ownership.	Planning and Development	Marlene Gafrick	Many of the bars and restaurants have valet/paid parking. Our field investigation has led us to believe that the valet parking is not being utilized. Patrons are opting to park on the streets rather than pay or utilize the valet parking. We are willing to explore amendments that establish a maximum threshold of required parking spaces that can be used for valet parking. Legal will research case law on disallowing grandfathering through: 1. discontinuing use; and 2. changing ownership	See attached sheet for outstanding parking issues. We will continue working on compliance issues. The next step involves exploring the valet parking problems.
Major Thoroughfare Plan Reclassify Washington Avenue as a collector street	Planning and Development	Marlene Gafrick	Not recommended - There is a defined process to reclassify roadways. In addition, roadways with a higher road classification receive priority for CIP dollars. This needs to be carefully considered due to the long term impact on mobility and the community's vision for Washington Ave.	Closed
Noise 1. Enforce noise ordinance by equipping HPD patrol cars with decibel meters 2. Add late night security patrols to side streets	HPD	Capt. Mark Holloway	Capt. Holloway will continue to monitor and update on HPD's efforts.	
Public Transportation Provide trolley or street car service and add cab stands and passenger pick up and drop off-points so patrons could park downtown	METRO	CM Gonzales Marlene Gafrick	Will visit with METRO to explore central parking/trolley options	